

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
April 14, 2014

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Don Cilla	Sue Ramsburg	Virginia Skelley	Elizabeth Chung	Rae Ann Butler
Ernell Graham	Pat Rosensteel	Dan Yeeles		Carol Krimm
David Gray, Comm	Carolyn True			Sonia Sperlich
Ann Holiday				
Louise Lynch				
Randy McClement, Mayor				
Katie Rhinehart				

- I. **Call to Order** – Louise Lynch called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Louise welcomed all attendees. She welcomed Mayor McClement and Don Cilla who are new members of the Commission.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – The Director's report should be added to the report section of the agenda.
- IV. **Public Comment** – No public comment.

- V. **Approval of Minutes** – There was not a quorum of members today so the minutes of the March 11, 2014 meeting were not approved.

Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Gray stated that land use issues continue in the southern portions of the county. There are more public hearings scheduled.

There was some discussion regarding the Citizen/Montevue properties and the continued controversy. Carol Krimm requested Commissioner Gray determine from the County Attorney what would happen if the City allows the division of the property. If the division is approved, would the sale go through before the court hearing next year? If the sale went through and the deed change is recorded, would there be any recourse?

There was also some discussion regarding the proposed increase in the property tax credit income guideline. There will be a public hearing on April 29th at 9:30 at which time the BoCC will consider whether to enrich this program. The question was asked if this is the best use of that funding for the seniors of Frederick County. Carolyn stated that staff has increased outreach for this program to ensure seniors in the municipalities are aware of the program. There was a suggestion that the CoA provide a statement of their position on this proposal.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Randy McClement stated that the City is in the process of working on their budget. They have two new Aldermen with this process.

- VI. **Mission Moment – Mindy Lohman-Hinz, Caregiver Program**– The Caregiver Program started at the Frederick office in 2002. This program provides support for family caregivers who are caring for an older adults, relatives and older adults caring for disabled individuals 18-59, and grandparents who are caring for children under the age of 18. There have been many changes over the past years. There has been an increase in long distance caregiving. Family members are quitting their jobs to become full time caregivers. Family members don't always identify themselves as caregivers. The program does have some grant funds which allow for a once a year respite stipend of \$250.00. These funds are limited. Caregivers must apply for these funds and they are available first come first served. There is also a monthly support group at the Frederick Senior Center. The group is not disease specific and any caregiver can attend. A new program is called the Memory Café which is held one time a month at the Frederick Friendship Café. This allows a relaxed environment for the caregiver and their family member to have a meal. There will soon be a similar program offered in Emmitsburg. Mindy and Mary

also support other programs at the Department by assisting with Medicare D open enrollment and Homeowner Property Tax Credit applications as needed.

- VII. Update on Business/Aging Taskforce – Carol Krimm** – On page 59 of the Needs Assessment, there is indication of the need for a business task force to inform businesses of the needs of the aging population and the significant stress to their employees who are caring for their family members. Carol has obtained a strategic plan from Just Partners which was developed by them in Alexandria, VA. It will take a community effort to address the challenges of this growing population. Carol will contact some of the local business members and begin to put this task force together. RaeAnn, Ernell, Louise, Katie, and Don would be interested in joining this group. A date will be determined for the first meeting.

Judy Welles from Montgomery County will be at the May CoA meeting and will talk about their plan for “Communities for a Lifetime”. This is the nationwide focus now. Communities need to prepare services for their growing aging population. Current land use plans focus on school and kids and have no apparent planning for the aging communities. Perhaps there should be impact fees for an aging population who may require more fire and ambulance services. Universal design for the aging population is optimal as it would allow citizens to stay and age in their home. Builders are often against this because of the additional cost involved.

- VIII. Status of Strategic Plan Louise Lynch** – It was suggested this topic be addressed after the May meeting when the Montgomery County Strategic Plan is presented. Our strategic plan will need to go along with the Needs Assessment and the Dept of Aging goals.
- IX. Questions for Candidates, Louise Lynch** – Louise did get some questions from members. It was suggested that the question be preceded by a brief history of present issues. The question for the candidates may be worded in the following way : “It was completed in October of last year, have you read the Needs Assessment and its recommendations? Our entire community is affected by our aging citizens, how do you propose that our county prepare its resources and its priorities to address this issue?” It was suggested that the answers be put on the website and ensure people are aware that the information is there. It was also suggested to reach out to the “Senior Living” section of the Frederick NewsPost. Louise will contact Ike Wilson at the FNP. It was suggested that there be a 150 or less word limit to the candidates’ reply if the information is to be published.

- X. Director, Carolyn True** – Carolyn distributed a monthly statistic report for the programs at the Dept of Aging.

Carolyn reported that DoA staff have been having Senior Tax credit seminars in various municipalities including Walkersville, New Market, Myersville, and Brunswick. The MAP program is being expanded and many of the programs are now under that funding. Maryland Access Point is Maryland's version of the Federal initiative of aging and disabilities resource centers which is part of the Affordable Care Act. MAP is a one stop shop for information about services and programs for older adults and those with disabilities.

Meals on Wheels has been working with Crestwood to help the individuals there with programs and services to help them age in place. We now have a monthly presence in the community. Crestwood MoW volunteers will handle food delivery for that community only and the previous Crestwood volunteers will be able to start a new route called the Tuscarora route.

The Convoy of Hope will not be held this year as a one time event. Instead this year the volunteers will be working on smaller projects throughout the year. They will be involved in a regular food distribution in cooperation with Western Maryland Food Bank and the Dept of Aging.

There was a program in March called March for Meals which allowed some of the local elected officials to ride along with one of the MoW volunteers to deliver meals.

State CoA, Louise Lynch – The group is planning their statewide meeting planned for September of this year. The topic will on extending the Communities for a Lifetime into a village concept. Statewide topic for next year will be transportation.

Partners in Care, Ernell Graham – Ernell provided stats from the third quarter for fiscal year 2014. She also gave information on the recent presentations held at area events. She distributed a report which lists the number and types of trips provided by the volunteers.

USM, Ginny Skelley – Louise reported that there will be a meeting on Monday, April 21st. Louise and Don will be attending this meeting. Don will be become the new liaison for the group.

XI. Announcements –

Public Comment – Sonja Sperlich was present to provide comment on recent events regarding Citizens and Montevue facilities.

The next Montevue Planning Commission meeting is May 12th. This is the same day as our next meeting. All the County Commissioners will be invited to next month's CoA meeting. Louise extended the invitation to all Frederick City Aldermen.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

May 12, 2014, 1pm. Commission on Aging meeting will be held at Winchester Hall in the third floor hearing room.